

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

Diversity of media is an important issue to me. Though in the past, the US has suffered from "payola" and big money interest interfering with the freedom of media access, today technology has provided us unchartered territory. The internet is the new, wild frontier; we need and have recently thrived on the informational freedom it provides, since so many other forms of media have already been consolidated and controlled. The effect such monopolies have on the economy is widely known and, therefore, regulated, but the effect they have on the arts and creativity is harder to put into numbers. Please protect our freedom of expression and freedom of thought. It is important that the methods for communicating new ideas be as accessible as it was when this country was only an idea itself. Though it was handbills then and the internet today, the need for freedom of access to media clearly argues for a decentralized, regulated media. Thank you for your consideration.